

the privilege of a college education. Olson's research and analysis qualify this interpretation. Basing his conclusions on a study by Norman Frederiksen and William B. Schrader, *Adjustment to College* (1951), Olson concludes that no more than twenty per cent of the veterans who attended college under the G.I. Bill would not have done so without this aid. It was not a social revolution in education.

Perhaps outside the scope of Olson's study is Public Law 16 which provided educational benefits to disabled veterans of World War II. Although the numbers qualifying for aid under this program were only a fraction of those who attended college under the G.I. Bill, they rate at least some discussion. With this minor omission considered, Olson has produced a work which historians of higher education will need to consult. The volume documents the fact that the modern university began after World War II and that the G.I. Bill played a significant role in that development.

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The Subordinate Sex: A History of Attitudes toward Women.

By Vern L. Bullough, with the assistance of Bonnie Bullough. (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1973. Pp. viii, 375. Notes, guide to further reading, index. \$10.95.)

Historians interested in women's history look forward to every new publication in the field with great anticipation. Surely the need is great for illuminating, informative, and perceptive discussions of the role of women in history. Unfortunately, at least for this reader, *The Subordinate Sex* does not fulfill the hope. Professor Bullough has previously written a textbook survey of western civilization; he seems to have culled his notes for references to women and based this work upon that source. As he states in his preface, he has no particular theory to explain the depressing treatment given women throughout history. He simply relates, in turgid prose, a very selective run through history, an ambitious task by any standard.

Absent from his bibliography and footnotes is Elizabeth Gould Davis' *The First Sex*, which could have provided Bullough with interesting descriptions and hypotheses of the

mythological origins of matriarchal civilization. Bullough's early chapter on the origins of civilization suffer from this absence. Mary Ellmann's *Thinking About Women*, another perceptive and brilliant analysis of woman's imagery in literature, is also absent. Bullough touches subjects and then moves gingerly on to something else. Surely in 354 pages he is unable to deal seriously with all of western civilization's view of women, with a chapter of eastern civilization thrown in as well. Why attempt such a difficult task? If, as this work suggests, each time period, each culture, reproduced the same views, ad nauseum, toward women, why bother repeating them? Why not discuss the reasons for this sameness and the basis for the similarities between cultures?

Was the Judeo-Christian tradition an influential variable? Was the biological nature of woman—translated into the cultural definition throughout human history—the determining force? How many important changes occurred in a woman's life because of material changes rather than ideological ones? For an answer to these questions, the reader must look elsewhere. Bullough's treatment of United States history, the reviewer's field of study, rates one rather skimpy chapter. Bonnie Bullough contributes a final chapter entitled "Some Questions about the Past and the Future."

The Subordinate Sex offers highly selective illustrations of the negative view men have held toward women throughout recorded history. It is a depressing and often puzzling account; why some male commentators are included and others are not goes unexplained. The deep hostility, perhaps fear, men had for women (and still have?) deserves and requires some explanation, or at least some tentative searchings for an answer. Without them, *The Subordinate Sex* remains a highly repetitive, often badly written, survey of some males' negative attitudes toward women, an unfortunate reminder for writers of history and herstory that a conceptual scheme, not simply a "study of attitudes," is essential to writing a worthy story of anything.

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